

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in the subject application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 2-4 and 7-12 have been amended, and new Claim 15 has been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 2-12 and 14-15 will be pending and under examination.

Applicants maintain that the amendments to the claims do not raise an issue of new matter. Support for new Claim 15 can be found at least in Claim 14 and in the specification on page 6, paragraph [0025] and page 7, paragraph [0026]. Support for the other claim amendments can be found at least in the previous version of the claims. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on February 21, 2007. Applicants concur with the Examiner's statements in the Interview Summary mailed on March 12, 2007 in regard to Claim 14. The Examiner indicated that "the prior arts are not combinable to teach the invention in claim 14 because the claim recites an OZONE protective layer." Applicants note that new Claim 15 also recites an ozone protective layer and that the remaining pending claims are dependent on Claims 14 and 15.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's opinion that "[t]he prior arts [Ohbayashi et al., US 6,492,005 B1 and Farooq et al., US 6,703,112 B1] are combinable to teach the invention in claims 1-13." However, independent Claims 1 and 13 have herein above been canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejections with respect to those claims, in order to advance prosecution of subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is patentable over the cited art.

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Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ohbayashi et al., US 6,492,005 B1, in view of Farooq et al., US 6,703,112 B1, are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-12 were rejected under the written description requirement because Claim 1 recited the phrase “the protective layer is not an image recording layer.” Claim 1 has herein above been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections set forth in the January 23, 2007 Office Action, and earnestly solicit allowance of the claims under examination. If there are any minor matters preventing allowance of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney.

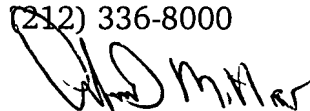
A check for \$150.00 is enclosed for filing 3 claims in addition to the number of claims previously paid for. No other fee is deemed necessary in connection with the submission of this Amendment. However, if any other fee is required with this reply or to maintain the pendency of the subject application, authorization is hereby given to withdraw the amount of any such fee from Deposit Account No. 01-1785. Any overpayments may be credited to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLP
Attorneys for Applicants
90 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016
(212) 336-8000

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New York, New York

By



Alan D. Miller, Reg. No. 42,889